

Andy and Patty- as a nurse and mom of a child with special needs I have big concerns about the privatization.

Concern 1- Some of the MCO's do not have contracts with my local clinic and hospital. Some of my home care clients have this organization listed as their MCO- so far I am changing them to the MCO's that I do know have our clinic/hospital under contract.

Concern 2- My son with Down Syndrome has a really good case manager with DHS out of Mason City Iowa. Their organization plan to sign up with AmeriHealth which is one of the MCO's that does not have a contract with his doctor. So I cannot sign him up with Amerihealth so we will lose our case manager.

Concern 3- Privatization of Medicaid will cause a huge increase in administrator costs, but to lower the overall cost of Medicaid, services and or decreased reimbursement to the health care organization will have to occur to offset the cost of the MCO's. This concerns me as healthcare organizations already receive a lower reimbursement rate from Medicaid then self pay or insurance. That may lead to many organizations to not sign contracts and do away with taking Medicaid clients. This will cause a decrease in accessibility of services in our rural area.

I am not for privatization of Medicaid and I feel there could be better ways to decrease costs than implementing these MCO's.

Thank you,

Tara Rochleau, mom of a son with Down syndrome, and an RN, MSN.